




MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Kimberly A. McNeeley, CPRP, Acting Director
Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PAR) 

DATE: July 2, 2018

SUBJECT: Update on Aquatic Facilities

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update regarding the maintenance, infrastructure and staffing associated with PAR's Aquatic Facilities for the 2018 summer season. The PAR Aquatic Division has worked diligently through the off-season to prepare for the summer, and continues this diligence to keep all pools and splash pads operational. PAR will provide weekly updates to City Council regarding splash pads and swimming pool operations throughout the summer season.

Splash Pads and Swimming Pools

Since the last communication on June 22, the PAR Aquatic Division continues to experience minor mechanical malfunctions and repairs. These malfunctions have led to temporary pool or splash pad closures (i.e., chemicals dropping below an acceptable range or electrical outages). On a positive note, the Aquatic Division has finalized the structural repairs to Mabel Davis Pool and is currently completing final testing parameters. Mabel Davis Pool was closed in 2017 when it was discovered that the pool was leaking more than 200,000 gallons of water per day. The pool was filled with water this week and PAR is anticipating opening Mabel Davis within the next week.

PAR will issue a press release and notify Council offices when an opening date for Mabel Davis Pool is determined, and will continue posting information to the Park Closure website at: <http://austintexas.gov/parkclosures> when pools are closed for a period of 24 hours or more.

The following splash pads/pools are closed at this time while repairs are being made:

- Mabel Davis Pool: Anticipated opening: July 2018.
- Shipe Pool & Wading Pool: Anticipated opening: Summer 2019.
- Govalle Pool: Anticipate opening: Summer 2019.

Aquatic Staffing

As of today, with the exception of those pools that are closed for repairs, all pools are open as scheduled. The PAR Aquatic Division continues to train and onboard lifeguards on a daily basis. Currently, the department has 624 lifeguards ready to work, but is still in need of approximately 126 additional trained lifeguards for the summer season. With the exception of unexpected lifeguard call outs, all city pools are fully operational.

Special Events

As the July 4 Holiday falls on a Wednesday this year, PARD is planning to not have any pool maintenance closures that are normally done on Wednesdays. In order to accommodate the Holiday, all City pools will be open for weekend hours of operation. As the date approaches, PARD will prepare a press release for distribution, update the Park Closure website, and will also post signs at all pools advising the community of the holiday pool schedule and hours of operation.

If you have any questions, please contact Jodi Jay, Division Manager for the Aquatic Division at 512-974-9459, or email at Jodi.jay@austintexas.gov.

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Sara Hensley, CPRP, Interim Assistant City Manager